Measures to deal with water crisis

355. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken various short term and long term measures to deal with the water crisis that has arisen in some States due to drought on account of scanty rainfall;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) to what extent the water crisis is likely to be solved by the short term measures; and

(d) the names of the States which have been benefited so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Provision of emergency Drinking Water Supply during periods of droughts in urban and rural areas, is funded through the relief funds. Rs. 1227.29 crores have been released as Central Share of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to the States for 2002-03. Besides, Railways are transporting water free of cost in Rajasthan. To provide long term relief the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme (ARWSP) is in operation since 1985 under which Rs. 38000 crores has been allocated to States resulting in coverage of 12.81 lakhs out of 14.22 lakh identified habitations. For smaller towns Rs. 360 crores have been spent under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Scheme.

All the affected States have benefited from relief funds and the above schemes.

Yield rate per acre

356. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite taking all measures the rate of yield per acre in India is very low as compared to that of rest of the countries in the world;